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CIA agent charged with selling secrets to Russia

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The US government yesterday charged a Central Intelligence Agency officer with selling classified information to Russia for the past two years, including information about American spies about to be sent abroad.

The suspect, Harold Nicholson, a 16-year CIA veteran who had been chief of station in Romania and deputy chief in Malaysia, was accused of spying for Moscow since June 1994, in exchange for more than \$100,000 in cash.

From 1994 until July 1996, Nicholson was an instructor at the CIA training center in Virginia known as the "farm," where he trained agents in skills like recruiting foreigners to spy for the United States and avoiding spy-catchers.

Since July, Nicholson, 46, of Burke, Virginia, has served as a ranch chief in the Counterterrorism Center at the CIA. He was alleged to have been photographing documents to sell to Moscow just six days ago.

At a joint news conference, Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Louis Freeh and CIA Director John Deutch said the case demonstrated a continuing threat to US national security by foreign intelligence services. Deutch said Nicholson appeared to have done far less damage than Aldrich Ames, the confessed CIA turncoat arrested in 1994 after he betrayed about three dozen agents and perhaps hundreds of operations.

Freeh said Nicholson had given Moscow the identities of "various CIA officers who were to be assigned to overseas posts," including Moscow. Nicholson faces a possible death sentence if any secrets he sold led to deaths or involved highly classified military matters, but prosecutors said there was no such evidence yet.

The CIA became suspicious after Nicholson appeared to be lying on two polygraph tests in October 1995. Investigators quickly focused on his travel and bank deposits. Nicholson was arrested last Saturday at Dulles Airport outside Washington as he was about to fly to Switzerland to meet his Russian handlers, Raymond Mislock of the FBI's national security division told reporters.



Is that who I think it is? US President Bill Clinton's been known to go to great lengths for some occasional junk food, but visitors to Tel Aviv were still a bit startled to see what looked like the president and his wife Hillary chowing down on some doughnuts at a Super-Sol during the chain's America Week festival yesterday. On closer inspection, however, the duo turned out to be First Couple lookalikes, invited specially to Israel for the occasion. (The Ossessyev/Israel Sun)

Knesset turmoil follows reports Peres advised Arafat

THE Knesset erupted into a frenzy of turmoil yesterday following a news report suggesting that Labor leader MK Shimon Peres advised Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to delay signing the Hebron evacuation agreement.

The report, which many say was leaked from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's office, was denied by the prime minister and his staff, who publicly declared they did not believe it.

Labor, whose regular faction meeting was dominated by the topic yesterday, is accusing whoever spread the rumor of incitement against the opposition leader and demanding that Netanyahu hold an inquiry to identify those responsible.

Netanyahu telephoned Peres on Sunday night and told him "certain circles are claiming you are

MICHAL YUDELMAN and LIAT COLLINS

putting pressure on Arafat not to sign the agreement on Hebron. But I don't believe it, I know these rumors are groundless."

Peres, who was visiting Stockholm, responded to Netanyahu that he would be the last person on earth who would want to delay any agreement on Hebron.

Netanyahu called Peres just after the prime minister's spokesman had been asked for a comment by Yedioth Aharonot journalist Shimon Schiffer, who broke the story. Schiffer said he received information that Peres had advised Arafat not to sign the agreement before making sure it is detailed and precise because Netanyahu is not to

be trusted. Yesterday a fuming Peres accused a "senior official" or "senior minister" of spreading the libelous rumor and called on him to reveal himself so that he could face legal redress. Peres also scolded the media for playing a "not so innocent" role for the sake of a scoop by allowing themselves to be manipulated "into spreading lies and poison" when they should have spiked the disinformation as a non-existent story.

"Someone calling himself a senior minister, who is a coward, a cad and a liar, fingered some reporter and spread libel against me while hiding his name," Peres said.

Peres urged the media to reveal the slanderer or at least to "desist from publishing unconfirmed" (Continued on Page 9)

Gov't: Hebron talks backtracking

BATSHEVA TSUR, LIAT COLLINS and JON IMMANUEL



THE Hebron talks have regressed during the past four days as the Palestinians have upped their demands, even though draft accords had already been reached, government sources said.

On at least one of the two key issues, the opening of Shuhadeh Street, which runs through the city's Jewish Quarter, Israel had agreed to reopen the street to traffic within four months, thus complying with Palestinian demands for a time frame. But the Palestinians then came back and said they wanted the street opened now.

On the other hand, though Palestinian sources recently talked of progress on the main issue, which Israel describes as "free access" to the Palestinian zone, there appears to have been no understanding at all.

The Palestinians said they were willing to consider joint mobile units in emergency situations. But Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's media adviser David Bar-Ilan told CNN yesterday that under the Oslo agreements, "We have the right to free access and to take whatever measures are necessary, including hot pursuit and preemptive measures."

The Palestinians, however, reject this interpretation of the accords. The accords are phrased vaguely to permit "engagement" when necessary, with notification to the Palestinian Police at the earliest opportunity. The attempt to spell out the details on this issue is being resisted by the Palestinians.

Netanyahu said yesterday he has concrete evidence the Palestinian Authority is trying to delay an agreement in the belief that the blame will automatically be placed on Israel. Talking to parliamentary reporters outside the

Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, he said this would not work, because the members of the international community involved in the process are aware of why it is stalled.

Last week, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat was upset with proposals brought by US peace talks envoy Dennis Ross to bridge differences. He thought the suggestions favored Israel and rejected them.

"We are going through difficult negotiations with the Israelis. What we want is an honest and accurate implementation of the [existing] agreements," Arafat said yesterday in Gaza, after meeting with Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamed bin Jasssem Al-Thani. "If things remain as they are, this will be a direct threat to the peace process, not only on the Palestinian track but to the entire region."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak appears to be solidly backing Arafat's position, warning in an interview with *The Financial Times* that even if Arafat accepted Israel's terms, the Palestinian people would not. Mubarak said that Israel was making a mistake in thinking it would win security by entering Palestinian territory after redeployment and warned that cooperation was the key.

"Mubarak is more hard-line than Arafat," a government source said yesterday.

"We thought we had a formula last Thursday that both sides said they could practically live with," the source said. "But the

Palestinians said 'that was a draft, and now we want to rethink.'"

Netanyahu consulted yesterday with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and with Foreign Minister David Levy, who both came away disappointed with the latest developments. Netanyahu later met with US Ambassador Martin Indyk.

A senior diplomatic official said that "if" the Hebron deal is wrapped up, it will contain three advantages for Israel over the previous agreement: It distances the Palestinian Police stations from the Jewish community; it creates a buffer zone on the Palestinian side, where Israeli security forces would be able to carry out joint patrols; and it limits the height of buildings near the Jewish community.

Netanyahu told reporters that a major terror attack had been averted recently through local and international action but said there is still a danger of future attacks.

Palestinian security officials have said both that they have stopped terror attacks against Israel and are thus Israel's best security, and that Israel has raised the spectre of terror attacks without cause to boost its demands for changes in the Oslo accords.

Despite the setbacks, no one doubts the redeployment will eventually take place. Several Israel-Palestinian meetings took place on the Hebron issue yesterday.

The IDF also began removing furniture from the military government building in Hebron. Settlers claimed that this was tantamount to the IDF making a "unilateral political decision."

In Petah Tikva, the Habad Movement, one of the firmest religious supporters of Netanyahu, convened an assembly in which voices were raised in support of demonstrations against Netanyahu and against any pullback in Hebron.

Haredi radio stations ride a wave of popularity

THEY have names like the Voice of Truth, Voice of the Soul, and Return Israel.

They broadcast hassidic music, Sephardic music, liturgical music. Their popular hosts are rabbis who provide halachic answers to contemporary problems.

They are the country's pirate haredi radio stations, and they are in the process of being institutionalized.

The Prime Minister's Office is setting up a committee that will consider establishing haredi radio stations, or somehow formalizing the pirate ones. The matter was written into the coalition agreement with Shas, and Shas has decided to start the ball rolling.

The coalition clause states that "within the government framework to reduce government control over the radio, the government will worked to establish radio stations for the haredi and religious public."

The stations already exist. Now, however, they are illegal, broadcast from private homes or apartments, and repeatedly closed down for short periods by the

Communications Ministry.

The haredi press regularly lists five pirate stations. Shas MK Shlomo Benizri recently told a reporter that "radio listening among haredim is much greater than among the secular population, because we don't have television."

Benizri said that this committee will determine "how to provide for the needs of the haredi public, the way they provide for the 100 people who listen to Radio 1, or the 200 who listen to Radio 3."

Benizri said "we don't want our radio stations to be tied to the government radio, or its news."

The truth is that, unlike Arutz 7, the pirate radio station of the settlement movement, which does broadcast Israel Radio's hourly news bulletins, the haredi stations don't broadcast the news.

During Israel Radio's 3:00 news yesterday, The Voice of Truth was playing a hassidic tune, "He will redeem us, oy, yoy, yoy, yoy."

Just before this song, the station broadcast an announcement to its

listeners warning people against "bringing crosses, the symbol of Christianity, into their homes. We don't, heaven forbid, believe people [willingly] bring this into their home. But sometimes it comes in a picture, or on a piece of clothing."

Other typical public service announcements include one heard for a group organizing to study the works of Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav in Kiryat Gat, or another that the mikveh in Yehud is closed, and that women should call one of the local mikveh attendants to find out other available options.

"We have come to the end of our program," the smooth-voiced DJ announces. "May it be His will that we continue to deal with repentance, and that we can merit full repentance... greet the messiah and, of course, continue to listen to the Voice of the Soul everywhere. May it be His will that this station will be heard around the world, and everyone will hear the word of God."

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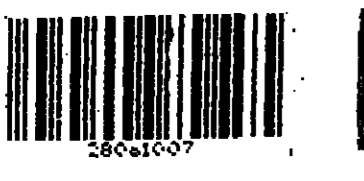
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Kahalani suspends two border policemen filmed beating Palestinians

INTERNAL Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani last night suspended from active duty two border policemen shown earlier in the evening on Channel 1 hitting and kicking several Palestinian workers they halted near the A-Ram junction in north Jerusalem.

The footage, shown on the *Mabat* newsreel and reportedly taken by a Palestinian who happened upon the scene, also showed the border policemen sitting on one of the workers and forcing him to do push-ups.

In the footage, a Palestinian man is seen approaching the border policemen, apparently asking why they are abusing the men and is himself then hit by one of the border policemen.

Mabat identified the Palestinians as workers who were illegally trying to enter Israel and

BILL HUTMAN and Itim

quoted Palestinian sources as saying abuse by border policemen is common. The workers shown in the footage were reportedly arrested for illegally trying to enter the country.

The ministry spokesman said in a statement released just after the footage was shown that Kahalani ordered Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz to suspend the two from active duty, pending the completion of an investigation.

"We have an excellent Border Police, and I will not allow such terrible behavior of a few to hurt the entire force," Kahalani said in the statement.

Border Police chief Yisrael Sadan also "strongly condemned the phenomenon that

was shown in the footage," the Border Police spokesman said. Sadan called on the Justice Ministry's Police Investigations Division to carry out an inquiry into the policemen's behavior, and Hefetz asked the division to speed up the inquiry. Hefetz also asked Sadan to meet with border policemen serving in northern Jerusalem and to make clear to them the seriousness of the incident.

"Policemen that act as those did in the television footage have no place in the Border Police," Sadan said in a statement.

In response, Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid said: "The two villains in Border Police clothing who mistreated Palestinian workers must be brought to trial tomorrow and serve a long sentence."



President of the European Parliament Klaus Hänsch stands at attention after laying a wreath at the Knesset yesterday. (Brian Henders)

Mordechai invites Assad to negotiating table again,

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday reiterated his call to Syrian President Hafez Assad to return immediately to the negotiating table and resume the peace talks.

Mordechai issued his call following a visit to IDF troops in the security zone in which he accompanied President Ezer Weizman. He stressed that Israel wanted to achieve progress in the peace process and not confrontation.

"We don't want confrontation or confrontation. We want discussions and advancement on the peace process, with the Syrians, the Lebanese and everywhere else," Mordechai told reporters.

"Together with that, however, we will safeguard the security interests that are important to us."

"I have said and will say again - nobody should threaten us. We are not threatening anybody. If somebody rises up against us, however, we have all the power to do what needs to be done," he said.

Mordechai and Weizman met with reporters on the northern border after visiting troops at the IDF's Karkum position, in the

DAVID RUDGE

zone's western sector, which was the scene of several Hizbullah attacks over a week ago.

In one of the incidents on November 9, Hizbullah gunmen attacked the outpost with mortars and light weapons and scored a direct hit with a Sagger missile on a tank at the post.

Sgt. Erez Yitzhak, 19, of Netanya, was killed and three other members of his tank crew were wounded. The following day Hizbullah gunmen hit another tank in the same area wounding three more soldiers, one seriously. The position itself, deep in the zone and only one kilometer from the border, has been attacked on several occasions in the past year.

The convoy which took Weizman, Mordechai and their aides to the Karkum position was heavily protected and the president later took time out to show the soldiers the bullet-proof vest he was wearing.

Hizbullah, meanwhile, has blamed Israel for an abortive car

bomb attack Saturday against district Hizbullah commander Mussa Mutadah near his home in As-Samir village, south of Tyre. The area was cleared before the bomb later exploded. Hizbullah charged that the attack had been carried out by the IDF with the aid of SLA "collaborators." It claimed Israel had broken the Grapes of Wrath understandings because the attempt had been made in a residential area where civilians could have been harmed.

Liat Collins adds:

Regarding Syria, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the Syrians had planned a surprise, limited attack on Israel shortly after the new government formed in the hope that the international community would prevent Israel from responding. He said that Israel had sent messages via the US, France and Russia making it clear that this would not work because there was no element of surprise and the rest of the world would not comply.

Gov't approves Emmanuel projects

HERB KEINON

The Industry and Trade Ministry has given the settlement of Emmanuel commitments to help it develop an industrial area, to complement the 1,200 housing units that were recently approved for construction in the settlement.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai recently gave final approval for the construction of the homes, with 500 units to be built in 1997, and the rest in 1998.

The Emmanuel projects are the first in the settlements to be initiated by the Netanyahu government. The government has given the green light for some 2,000 units to be built in Matiyahu/Kiryat Sefer, but these plans were drawn up under the previous government.

Shmuel Lanza, the head of the Emmanuel Local Council, said the construction in Emmanuel will be the first development in the baredi settlement in Samaria, some 20 minutes from Penah Tikvah and 40 minutes from Bnei Brak, in 12 years.

"This will help us enormously," Lanza said. "I see it as humanitarian aid." Emmanuel ran into especially hard times in the late 1980s, Lanza said, when the firm building the settlement went bankrupt. Some 200 families never got the apartments they had purchased.

Lanza said that the commitment to build the industrial area is also important for the settlement, since it will generate employment. There are currently some 650 families in the settlement.

In addition to the apartments, the \$37 million project will include a school and senior citizens home.

A Defense Ministry spokesman, asked to confirm that approval was given, reiterated the statement the ministry puts out whenever asked about its settlements policy: "The Defense Minister approves, from time to time, and in coordination with government decisions, the expansion of settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, after judging them from a legal vantage point, and in consideration of the needs on the ground."

Lanza said there will be no problem selling the apartments.

"The haredi community is crying out for housing," he said.

European Parliament president addresses Knesset

KLAUS Hänsch, president of the European Parliament, was a guest of the Knesset yesterday, during which he was met with a full honor guard and flag-raising ceremony. In a speech in the plenum, Hänsch said he felt particularly honored to address the Israeli parliament as a German.

He stressed that the history of Europe and the Jewish People were entwined and that the Jewish population had for more than 1,000 years helped form European values regarding topics such as freedom and human rights.

Hänsch said the Holocaust had killed the spirit of Europe by denying these values. Discussing the need for peace, he noted that Britain, Germany and France had realized a dream by joining together in a united Europe after centuries of hostilities.

He said the European Parliament saw in Israel a strong democracy, interested in peace despite differ-

LIAT COLLINS

ences over how to achieve it.

"The message I bring you today from all members of the European Parliament is first and foremost a message of encouragement, friendship and hope," he said.

He warned that terror attacks could threaten the peace process at any stage and said terror should be fought with full force and the murderers brought to trial.

"The Palestinian authorities must work together with your security forces to wipe out violence and terror," Hänsch said.

He also denounced Israeli extremists.

Hänsch said security must be Israel's primary concern.

"The Israeli People has the right to safe borders and safety within its borders," he said. "This is the message I will convey in Ramallah on Wednesday."

Hänsch called for the Oslo

Accords to be implemented in their entirety and described the settlements as an obstacle to peace.

Speaker Dan Tichon welcomed Hänsch, noting he represents an institution numbering 626 members of parliament from 15 countries. Tichon stressed the democratic nature of the Knesset and extended an invitation to all members of the European Parliament to visit Israel and become more familiar with the facts.

"We sincerely hope that a distinguished body such as the European Parliament will take a balanced and responsible approach towards Israel and the Middle East in face of the numerous challenges still ahead of us," Tichon said.

Both Hänsch and Tichon admitted that Israel and Europe did not always see eye-to-eye on the Middle East, but both expressed hope for a continued strong relationship.

Mubarak: Syrian war unlikely

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak said yesterday that he does not believe another war between Israel and Syria is possible, but warned that a wave of terrorist violence threatens the Middle East if the stalemate in the peace process continues.

In an interview printed yesterday in the French daily *Liberation*, Mubarak said: "I do not think a war is possible, for example, between Syria and Israel. But violence is possible, and it is much more complicated to handle than a war. In a war, it is clear, there is a target, forces against other forces. But ter-

ELDAD BECK

PARIS

rorism, how can one control that? "I'm still convinced that the majority [of the people in the Middle East] wants to achieve peace, but if the situation stays as it is now, the majority might join the activities of the terrorist groups, and that is dangerous for everybody."

Mubarak revealed in the interview that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told him during their meeting in July that he intends to respect and implement all the

agreements signed by the previous Labor government, and that he would sign a permanent peace agreement with the Palestinians, "as Begin had signed with us."

However, the Egyptian president stated that none of these promises has yet been fulfilled.

Nevertheless, Mubarak added that he hasn't lost faith in Netanyahu.

"I know that he has difficulties," Mubarak said. "For that reason, I try to encourage him to act, to explain to the public what is necessary to do in order to reach peace and stability. What should he do? Before anything else, he must realize that his demand to have the right to chase [terrorists in Hebron] is not acceptable to the Palestinians."

According to Mubarak, this demand is illogical since it will create an authority higher than the Palestinian Authority. Such a situation risks provoking new acts of violence and revenge, he said. He said that his only message to the Israeli public is that peace is worth all concessions and compromises.

He also said that he has no plans to travel to Jerusalem to help advance the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

MK Haim Dayan, wife kiss and make up on TV

MK Haim Dayan, of Tsomet, whose wife lodged a police complaint against him for battery, apologized to her last night in a somewhat tense joint interview on Channel 2.

At the end of the interview the MK, who is also deputy Knesset speaker, kissed her and the two said they were off on a new start.

Mrs. Dayan arrived at the Migdal Ha'emek police station Saturday morning bruised and battered, and complained that her husband, a former policeman, had assaulted her. Afterwards she was treated at the emergency room of Afula's Ha'emek Hospital for blows to parts of her legs, neck and face. But less than 24 hours later she withdrew her complaint.

MK Dayan said recently in a Knesset debate about battered wives that men who hit their

MICHAL YUDELMAN

spouses should have their "arms broken." Regarding the incident with his wife, Dayan said there was "an argument and a misunderstanding, but no physical violence."

"I didn't think it would happen," Dayan said, asked how things between himself and his wife reached this state. "I thought my wife would understand it, but she claims, justly, that she's not interested if I'm an MK, or even a prime minister. She wants her husband at home."

Liat Collins adds:

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon has granted Dayan's request for four days' leave from the Knesset this week.

Today the Knesset is dedicating a session to domestic violence and Dayan, as a deputy speaker, could have presided over the session.

1 hour, 1 agora sentence for soldiers' mistaken Palestinian killing

A MILITARY court in Lod Sunday jailed four soldiers for one hour and fined them one agora for killing a Palestinian by "not following the guidelines for opening fire."

The undercover unit soldiers had reached a plea bargain in which they would plead guilty in return for a light sentence.

The incident for which the four were convicted occurred on November 13, 1993 when Iyad Badran, 18, was shot dead by soldiers at a roadblock near Salfit. The driver, Bilal Anli, 20, who was a witness said that he saw no roadblock but only a flashing light and flares. Blinded, he stopped anyway. The soldiers then opened fire, hitting Badran, he said, according to testimony taken by human rights activist Bassem Eid.

Jerusalem Post Staff

'Yediot' reporter: Netanyahu, Peres rushed to deny story before it was born

SHIMON Schiffer, the senior Yediot Aharonot reporter who "scoped" the report that Labor leader Shimon Peres allegedly advised Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to delay signing the Hebron agreement, said yesterday: "In all honesty, we must admit we are all instruments in the hands of our sources, and every report has a purpose."

Schiffer said the "sources" try to use journalists for their purposes, "and that's how we obtain information. The big question is what one does with the information. Whether you check it thoroughly enough, whether you can tell who is a reliable source and whether you make enough efforts not to make a mistake."

Schiffer said the story about Peres was still in the checking up stage when it suddenly broke and created a storm, due to the rash, almost panicky behavior of both sides. "I was surprised by the prime minister's hasty behavior, as well as that of Peres's bureau. If they tried to minimize the damage, they magnified it."

"It was still an unhatched egg. I was looking into the information and asked Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak to check it out. At the same time I called Peres's spokeswoman Aliza Gozen and asked her how to get

MICHAL YUDELMAN

Peres, who was in Stockholm. To my astonishment, Bazak called me back at 8 p.m. and told me Netanyahu had called Peres and talked to him about it. Netanyahu also told Peres that he hoped the opposition knew who is running things. I was surprised Netanyahu rushed to tell Peres, perhaps he feared he would be fingered as the source.

"A similar thing happened on Peres's side. I was trying to trace Peres' and his spokeswoman Aliza Gozen ran to Channel 2 to give a comment on a story which was not yet born."

Commenting on Peres and Netanyahu's denials of the report, Schiffer said it's the sort of report which is denied by its sources afterwards, like a rumor of a devaluation which finance ministers traditionally deny. He said it is customary to receive information from a source who demands to remain unnamed.

Referring to Peres's attacks on his publishing the story without substantiating it and his demand that Schiffer expose his source, Schiffer said, "I would never expose a source, no matter how juicy the story, even if it were Peres. Peres himself made extensive use of such unnamed reports during his career as prime minister. He and his assistants turned it into an art."

First Palestinian art exhibition at Israel Museum begins today

KHALIL Rabach carefully weaves together white and gray strands of cotton and steel wool, combining the rough and soft materials into a tunnel meant to challenge the assumptions of those who enter it.

The installation by Rabach - the first Palestinian artist to have his work exhibited at the Israel Museum - will go on display today as part of an exhibit of young artists.

At first glance, Rabach's hanging tunnel appears to be a wall with no entrance. But if one looks harder, three entrances can be found.

"It's to show that things are not as they seem," Rabach said. "We all need to look a little deeper. We all need to have our preconceptions challenged."

Rabach, who works as an architect in Ramallah, said he chose the divergent materials to show that when put together, they hold together beautifully.

"Two different things, like two different people, can be close and combine together," Rabach said.

The artist refused to comment further on the symbolism of his work, adding only that "Of course a political message could be found in this."

So that he could prepare for his exhibit, the Israel Museum had to get the authorities to issue Rabach a special permit to enter Jerusalem.

"I can only be in Jerusalem until 7 p.m. It's not enough time when you are preparing for an exhibit," he said.

Rabach had to give the museum a list with the names of 10 family members and friends so they could get permits to attend the opening night of his show.

Spokeswoman Mimi Tsadok said the museum hoped the exhibit would encourage Palestinians to visit, and that it would open the door for future exhibits by Palestinian artists.

The exhibit also includes works by a Japanese and two Israeli artists.

Rabach, 35, has a degree in fine arts and architecture from the University of Texas. (AP)

Hadassah demands government pay it for PA debts

THE Hadassah Medical Organization petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday to demand that the government pay it the money it is owed by the Palestinian Authority by deducting this sum from the funds it transfers to the PA every month.

The PA currently owes Hadassah hospitals some NIS 10 million, and the sum is growing every month, the petition said. Furthermore, the lack of funds is beginning to damage the hospitals' stability, it said.

Until the Oslo Accords were signed, Arab residents of the territories who were treated by Hadassah were paid for by the Civil Administration.

Oslo, however, stipulated that the PA would assume responsibility for the health care of all the Arabs in the territories. According to the petition, the government informed Hadassah that it should continue to accept Arabs from the territories as patients, but that bills should now be sent to the PA. In December 1994, the PA sent a letter to Hadassah promising to pay all such bills.

Since then, however, the bills have been paid only sporadically, and the PA's debt has mounted. The PA acknowledges the debt, the petition said, but it has allocated no money to pay it in its 1997 budget.

Evelyn Gordon

The family of

Attorney MEIR ARANNE

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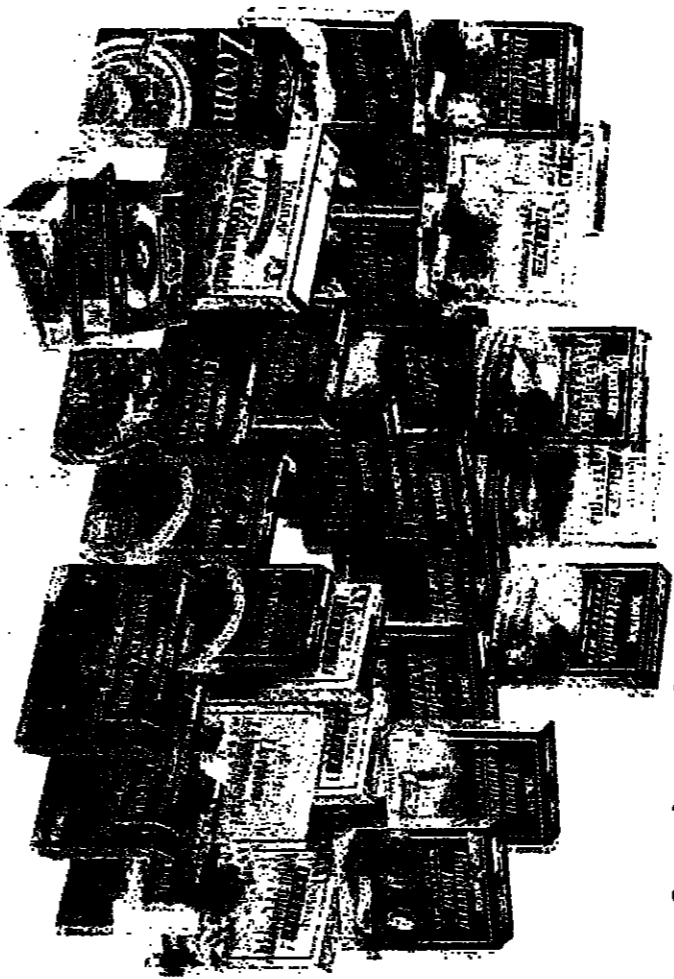
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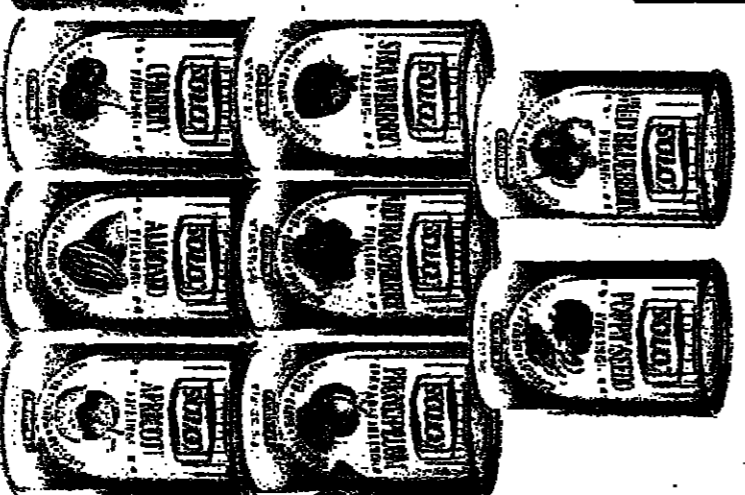
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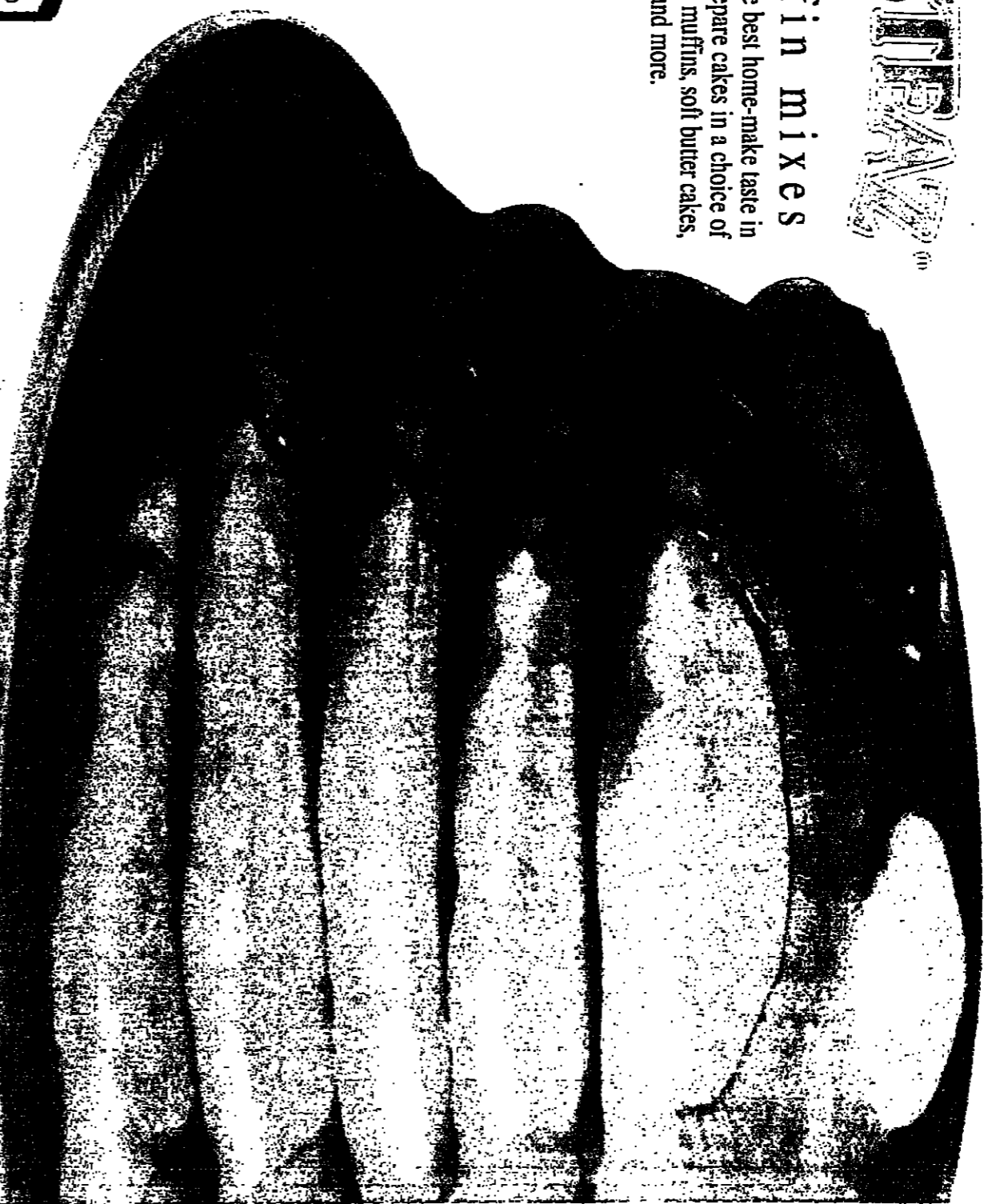
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Katzover to discuss location of Goldstein's grave with family

Court hears Popper's appeal

EVELYN GORDON

HERB KEINON and Itim

KIRYAT Arba Local Council head Zvi Katzover, as well as settlement rabbis, will be meeting with the family of Baruch Goldstein "soon" to "discuss" what to do with the controversial grave at the entrance to the settlement, a settlement spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman said that Katzover will not tell the family to move the grave, but will say that it is not in the settlement's interest for it to remain where it is.

"The Kiryat Arba Council will oppose any decision made regarding the grave, including moving it to another site or a site within the Green Line, if the family opposes it, or if Kiryat Arba Rabbi Dov Lior opposes it," a council spokesperson said.

Goldstein was buried in the Meir Kahane Park at the entrance to the settlement after the IDF refused to allow him to be buried in the Jewish cemetery in Hebron because of the fear that it would lead to a "pogrom."

The council was not involved in the decision on where to bury Goldstein, Katzover said. Then-OC Central Command Shaul Mofaz had discussed the matter with Goldstein's widow and with Lior.

The IDF Spokesman said the IDF has not yet come to a decision regarding moving the grave.

According to Katzover, Goldstein's family had originally requested that he be buried in Hebron. However, due to concerns that Arabs would desecrate his grave, the family agreed to a proposal that he be buried in Kiryat Arba in a coffin, so that it would be possible to later move him to somewhere within Hebron itself.

In the two and a half years since the massacre, the family has laid a tile floor around the grave, put in bookshelves, a wash-basin and lights. Goldstein is also referred to on the grave as a "martyr" who died "sanctifying God's name."

The council also has not paid for any of this, a council spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza yesterday came out in favor of moving the grave.

"While it is apparent that the people of Kiryat Arba honor the memory of a doctor who served them



A man stands next to Baruch Goldstein's grave in Kiryat Arba yesterday.

for a decade in sickness and health, the presence of his grave at the entrance to Kiryat Arba serves as a lightning rod for those who want to attribute his condemnable deed to all residents of Kiryat Arba and the territories," said Yechiel Leiter, a spokesman for the council.

"It should be moved to a more modest place where it does not serve as a centerpiece and attraction for the media thirsty few that pay homage to his ghastly acts," Leiter said.

Leiter said that the matter should have been addressed earlier, but those responsible hoped that by paying it less attention it would have become less of an issue. Unfortunately, a few people have made that impossible.

In a related matter, *Yedioth*

Aharonot reported yesterday that Gershon Ben-Jones, who converted to Judaism and is the son of noted

archaeologist Wendel Jones, named his son born last week Yigal Baruch - after Yigal Amir and Baruch

Goldstein. Jones lives in the Mitzpe Yericho settlement. He refused to talk to the press yesterday.

Anonymous caller warns of bomb in Dahlia Yairi's studio

GREER FAY CASHMAN

AN anonymous caller yesterday telephoned Israeli Radio and said that a bomb had been planted in the studio from which morning talk show hostess Dahlia Yairi was broadcasting.

Yairi had raised the ire of several right-wing extremists by condemning the couple which named his son after killers Baruch Goldstein and Yigal Amir and for her critical remarks about Goldstein's grave, which has

become a place of pilgrimage. Soon after Yairi invited listeners to fax their comments on the growing popularity of Goldstein and Amir and the public endorsement of their actions, a telephone call was received from an unidentified person who said that a bomb was about to explode in Yairi's studio.

Police evacuated the area and

the broadcast continued from elsewhere. The threat proved to be a hoax, but many of the faxes which arrived at the studio indicated that there is considerable right-wing antagonism towards Yairi, who on many occasions has spoken out against Goldstein, Amir and their rabbinical mentors.

Yairi and several other broadcast journalists have received numerous threats of death or bodily harm.

Israeli women ignore requests for mammogram testing

EVELYN GORDON

ONLY 25 percent of Israeli women who have been asked to undergo a routine mammogram examination have actually showed up for the test, compared to 70% in Western countries, the Knesset State Control Committee was told yesterday.

The committee was discussing implementation of a program to give periodic mammograms to all women over the age of 50, as well as women over 40 with a family history of cancer. The periodic tests are meant to enable women who develop breast cancer to detect the disease while it is still in an early stage, since the chances of successful treatment are much greater if the disease is caught early.

The program was recommended by the National Oncology Council in 1993, though the health funds only began implementing it in October 1995.

Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz), responding to State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat's findings with respect to the large number of women who fail to take these tests, said a massive public campaign is necessary to impress women with the importance of undergoing the periodic examina-

tions since breast cancer is one of the leading causes of premature death in women. The government, the press and the medical community should all be involved in this campaign, he said.

Health Ministry Director-General Prof. Gabi Barabash told the committee that he expects all women between the ages of 50 and 74 to have been invited for their first mammogram by the end of 1997.

Tourist arrested in connection with arm amputation

A RUSSIAN tourist was remanded for four days yesterday by the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court on suspicion he was involved in the slicing off the arm of a Kiryat Shmona man in the capital's Old City on Saturday.

According to police, the amputation was an attempt to punish or scare the Kiryat Shmona man, Vladimir Sukeniv.

On Saturday, Sukeniv walked into the city's Magen David Adam station in Romema carrying a plastic bag that contained his left fore-

arm and hand. Sukeniv said he and the suspect, Genady Kuzenziv, had gone to the Old City to try to sell a sword the two had bought in a gift shop a day earlier.

After separating from Kuzenziv, Sukeniv said, three Arabs who had been following him suddenly jumped on him, grabbed the sword, and cut off his hand with it.

During yesterday's remand hearing, police said that Kuzenziv had given a different version of events than that given by the wounded man. The police representative pre-

sented Judge Philip Marcus with classified evidence obtained from a search of Kuzenziv's hotel room.

Police also noted that the pathology report did not support Sukeniv's description of the amputation. Sukeniv had said the arm had been cut off all at once, while the report indicated that first the man's fingers had been cut off, and only later the rest of his hand and forearm.

Kuzenziv denied the allegations, and claimed his investigators had exerted undue pressure on him. (Itim)

British biologist receives Wolf Prize for genetic research

A BRITISH biologist whose research led to the discovery of the causes of genetic tumors will receive the 1996-97 Wolf Prize in medicine, the Wolf Foundation announced yesterday.

Mary Frances Lyon, 71, will be awarded the \$100,000 prize for discovering the process in which one of the two X-chromosomes present in the cells of female mammals is inactivated early in embryonic development. Her discovery led to improved detection of hereditary disorders.

Born in Norwich, Lyon received her doctorate from Cambridge. In 1955, she joined the Radiobiology Unit of the Medical Research Council in Chilton. She retired in 1990.

The Wolf prizes are given annually for outstanding achievements in chemistry, medicine, agriculture, mathematics and the arts. President Ezer Weizman will present the awards in Jerusalem next April.

The Wolf Foundation was established in 1975 by Ricardo Wolf, a German-born diplomat and philanthropist who emigrated to Cuba and served as Cuban ambassador to Israel. He died here in 1981. (AP)

City-sanctioned strike in Safed intensifies; employees demonstrate for salaries

DAVID RUDGE

ANGRY employees of the Safed Municipality blocked the entrance to the town at the Biria junction yesterday to protest the non-payment of their salaries.

The demonstration by hundreds of workers lasted over half an hour, causing traffic jams in the area.

Municipal services for Safed's 24,000 residents have been shut down since last Thursday, when the city council itself declared a strike, in an attempt to get the Interior Ministry to help cover the city's debts.

The strike was yesterday extended to all schools and kindergartens, keeping around 6,000 children at home.

Mayor Moshe Haniya noted that the city's accumulated debts now totalled over NIS 35 million, and it cannot pay its 500 workers. "The municipality is bankrupt and simply

cannot provide services to residents," said Haniya. "None of the workers, including pensioners, have received their October salaries and some haven't been paid for two months. Despite pleas for assistance, we have heard nothing from the Interior Minister, even since the strike started and the situation is going from bad to worse."

He noted that the workers themselves had been ordered to remain at their jobs by the Tel Aviv Labor Court. They could not work, however, because the city council itself had declared a strike.

"We now intend to intensify our actions. From [tonight] there will be no street lighting and [tomorrow] a demonstration is planned in Jerusalem," said Haniya.

Army Radio's Haifa transmitter shut down for radiation tests

LIAT COLLINS

THE Army Radio AM transmitter in Haifa will be closed down for two months while tests are conducted to see whether it exceeds the Environment Ministry's standards on electromagnetic radiation.

The decision to shut down the transmitter was made after yesterday's Knesset Interior and Environment Committee request. The antenna is situated close to a school in the Carmel neighborhood.

Committee chairman Sallah Tarif (Labor) also called on the Defense Ministry, which is responsible for the station, to provide details on possible alternative sites for the transmitter.

Brig-Gen. Herzl Hallel, the head of the IDF's Communications Corps, explained that there are different international standards in use and the transmitter meets the standards of all but the strictest, which is the one

the Environment Ministry is insisting on.

He stressed that there is no danger from the electromagnetic radiation to any of the children at the school and said the strength of the transmissions had recently been reduced by half.

The committee, however, asked that the Environment and Defense ministries, as well as the Haifa Municipality, carry out tests at the site to measure the amount of electromagnetic radiation.

"We won't rest until we have found a solution without compromising the health of residents," Tarif said.

MK Avraham Poraz (Meretz) suggested closing down the AM transmitter permanently, saying that residents could rely on the FM transmitter instead, although both Hallel and station head Moshe Shlonsky said the FM transmissions are weak there.

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Belgian deputy PM denies sex crime allegations

BRUSSELS (Reuter) - Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo said yesterday he was the subject of a judicial investigation, following press allegations that he had indulged in sex with minors.

Di Rupo, who denies the allegations, said in a statement the public prosecutor's office in Brussels had lodged a request with the Belgian parliament that he be charged - a first step towards lifting his immunity from prosecution.

The weekend allegations that he and a francophone regional minister were involved in pedophilia were a further shock to Belgians, already reeling from child sex and political murder scandals.

The new scandals affected Belgian financial markets, causing concern about government stability and weighing on the franc.

Lifting Di Rupo's parliamentary immunity would give him the chance to view the dossier against him, something that he has said he wants.

In his statement, he said the request would allow him to tackle the issue head-on so that, "I hope, this confusion, these mix-ups and fabrications can be stopped. That is essential."

"I wish to reaffirm that I have never had anything at all to do

with pedophilia. No action in my private life has ever harmed anybody," he said.

The president of the Belgian parliament, Raymond Langendries, told the Belga news agency earlier that he had called a meeting of party leaders on Tuesday to discuss a file he had received on a government minister. He gave no details.

Constitutional experts said any decision to lift Di Rupo's immunity - which would have to be taken by a full session of parliament - would not necessarily force him to resign.

Jean-Pierre Grafé, a minister in the Walloon government who was named by Flemish newspapers yesterday alongside Di Rupo as being involved in sex with minors, also denied the allegations although francophone community leaders were to meet today.

Di Rupo, who is also in charge of Belgium's fight against pedophile porn on the Internet, accused his political opponents of trying to stir up trouble.

A spokesman for the Brussels public prosecutor's office said: "The prosecutor general has begun work on a dossier in which two names of two ministers appear." He gave no details.

British co. shipped arms to Rwanda as genocide went on

Ben-Gurion cited in documents as one of three airports for shipments

A British-based company supplied arms and ammunition to the former Rwandan government after it began slaughtering a half-million of its own people in 1994, according to documents that Hutu militias left behind when they retreated in eastern Zaire.

The documents, made available to The Associated Press yesterday, indicated the Rwandan government bought more than \$5.5 million worth of machine guns, mortars, grenades, ammunition and other military hardware from the company, Mil-Tec Corp., between April and July 1994.

Some shipments appeared to contravene a UN embargo on exporting arms to Rwanda, imposed in May 1994 following acts of genocide by the former Hutu-led government against minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

The arms were flown out of London's Heathrow Airport, Tel

Aviv; and Tirana, Albania, via such carriers as Belgium's Sabena, Germany's Lufthansa and Russia's Aeroflot, according to the documents.

They were delivered to the Rwandan capital, Kigali, and then later - when government forces fled into neighboring Zaire - flown to Goma and Kinshasa, the Zairian capital. Payments were made through Belgium, France and Egypt, the documents said.

A UN Commission of Inquiry has been investigating a British company for allegedly supplying arms to the ex-Hutu government or its militia allies after they fled to Zaire, it was reported earlier this month. It could not be learned whether Mil-Tec is that company.

The continued arms trade in the volatile region has drawn sharp protests from international human rights groups, which allege that the French government also supplied weapons to the retreating

TONY SMITH
GOMA, Zaire

Hutus after the 1994 genocide. France denies it.

Public pressure led the South African government on November 6 to announce it was suspending arms shipments to the new, Tutsi-led Rwandan government.

The documents were found in a bus, part of a wrecked convoy abandoned by retreating Hutu militias in Sake, 27 kilometers west of Goma. The Hutu militias, remnants of the former Rwandan army that fled Tutsi forces in 1994, were fleeing from Zairian rebel troops sweeping through eastern Zaire.

The documents indicated Mil-Tec is based in Douglas, the Isle of Man, off England's northwest coast, and in Hove, 80 kilometers south of London. But it is not listed in telephone directories and

could not be reached for comment. The documents included demands by Mil-Tec to the Rwandan government for overdue payment of \$1.9 million. "We have been suppliers to your ministry for over five years and were able to assist you with supplies during your time of need," one document said.

It added that Mil-Tec was "approached for very urgent supplies" on April 10, 1994 - four days after the massacres began in Rwanda. Mil-Tec made that delivery within eight days, the document said.

Many victims of the slaughter were killed by machetes and other simple weapons, but others were killed by guns and grenades.

The massacres went on into June 1994, and the abandoned documents indicated Mil-Tec arms shipments continued until July 13. They included several million rounds of ammunition, thousands

of machine guns and more than 15,000 mortar rounds and grenades.

In London, Defense Secretary Michael Portillo said he didn't know about the shipments and a "knee-jerk reaction from the government would not be appropriate."

"We want to make sure that some of the most evil people in the world don't get hold of weapons that have anything to do with Britain," Portillo said on BBC radio.

It could not be learned immediately whether the Mil-Tec arms exports were licensed by Britain or other governments concerned. When shipping to embargoed destinations, arms dealers sometimes use fraudulent "end user" documentation purporting that the arms are headed elsewhere.

It could also not be determined in what countries the weapons were made. (AP)

Volcker Commission to announce its planned Swiss probe

NEW YORK (Reuter) - A commission headed by former US Federal Reserve Bank chairman Paul Volcker plans to announce sweeping moves today to investigate the role of Swiss banks in dealing with the accounts of Holocaust victims and with assets looted by the Nazis.

Sources close to the commission said yesterday that the seven-member Volcker commission was expected to announce the names of three accounting firms to investigate audits of the banks with their cooperation - meaning that traditional Swiss bank secrecy rules would be suspended.

The first stage of the audit will be a six-month long pilot project to determine the methodology of the probe - by taking a representative sampling of bank records and tracing their depositions.

The sources said the commission would not restrict itself to dormant accounts but would investigate whether the accounts of Holocaust victims disappeared as a result of illegal actions including embezzlement. The commission would also probe the extent to which the Swiss allegedly handled looted Nazi assets.

The commission was formed last May with Volcker as chairman and three members appointed by Swiss banks and three by international Jewish groups.

It was formed after allegations

surfaced accusing Swiss banks of refusing to return to family survivors monies deposited by Holocaust victims.

Meanwhile, a Swiss bank has distributed a memo to its North American employees saying that it never had an account for Adolf Hitler, as American intelligence has claimed, and that private Swiss banks did not trade in looted Nazi gold.

The memo from the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) said it was aimed at setting the record straight in the controversy over whether Swiss banks still held millions of dollars in assets from Holocaust victims. It said recent reports had presented a distorted and erroneous impression of Swiss banks.

But the World Jewish Congress, which is spearheading a fight to find out what is contained in the dormant accounts still in Swiss banks, called the memo full of "blatant misrepresentations."

WJC Vice President Kalman Sultanik said the UBS memo "minimized or disguised the true nature of nefarious activities during World War II."

The memo said that commercial Swiss banks did not trade in looted Nazi gold and while the Swiss Central Bank did receive German gold, it had been assured by top Reichsbank officials that the gold it was sending to Switzerland had not been looted.



Opposition leader Yuk Drasovic (right) raises his hands in front of the crossed-out picture of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic during a rally in Belgrade yesterday to celebrate victories in local elections over the weekend. The Serbian opposition scored major victories in the country's biggest cities, including Belgrade. (Reuter)

Gaddafi invites Jews to return to former homes

ELDAD BECK
PARIS

LIBYAN leader Muammar Gaddafi said yesterday that he wants to save the Jews from the "grave in which they were put in," meaning Israel.

In an interview to the French daily *Le Figaro* Gaddafi said that the whole world hates the Jews, and therefore they were expelled from all the countries and put in one state.

"They were thrown out from everywhere, from Russia, from Europe, from Ethiopia. It is a real plot against them, that is meant to put them all in one state. I invite them, therefore, to go back to their homes, in Libya, in Africa, in Russia and also Alaska," Gaddafi said.

The Libyan leader said he was in favor of peace, but even so he refused to recognize Israel.

"Make Israel disappear does not mean make the Jews disappear. East Germans disappeared, and the Germans were not eliminated," Gaddafi explained.

According to Gaddafi, the Arab-Israeli peace accords did not bring peace, since the "Israeli plan" hasn't changed since 1948.

"They [the Israelis] have no intention to evacuate the Golan taken from Syria in 1967. There has never been a recognition of a Palestinian state, not during the period of Rabin, and even less than that now under Netanyahu. As to Jerusalem, there are only 5% left of it for the Arabs," Gaddafi said.

Albright repeats veto threat as UN opens talks on Boutros-Ghali

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - The United States stood alone yesterday in opposing a second term for Boutros Boutros-Ghali, as the Security Council met to pick a secretary-general to lead the United Nations into the next century.

During a closed-door meeting, US Ambassador Madeleine Albright told the 14 other council members that she had written instructions to veto the 74-year-old Egyptian because he had lost the confidence of the Republican-controlled Congress, diplomatic sources said on condition of anonymity.

African diplomats, who support Boutros-Ghali, huddled privately to decide what to do if the veto is cast. The Africans have insisted that their continent deserves two terms in the post as has been UN tradition.

The United States is one of five permanent council members which have veto power.

A US official, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, said Secretary of State Warren Christopher had given Albright written instructions to deny Boutros-Ghali a second term.

The official said the American Congress had lost confidence in Boutros-Ghali, and that as long as he remained in power, Congress

would not vote the funds to pay America's debts to the United Nations, which is in the midst of a serious financial crisis.

"This is not a happy day for the US mission to the United Nations," the official said. "It's a sad day. We had tried very hard over the last six months to try to avoid a confrontation on the question of the next secretary-general."

He said that "fairly or unfairly, based on misinformation or true information, our Congress has lost confidence in this secretary-general."

He added that Boutros-Ghali's "re-election would make it virtually

impossible for us to obtain the hundreds of millions of dollars that we need to pay back the United Nations."

Diplomats said at least nine countries - including Russia, China, Guinea-Bissau, Botswana, Germany, Chile, Indonesia and France - had agreed to cosponsor an Egyptian resolution to give Boutros-Ghali a second term. His current term expires December 31.

Boutros-Ghali's supporters claim the Clinton administration has used the UN chief as a scapegoat to cover its own foreign policy miscues in Somalia, Bosnia and Rwanda.

Romania's new leader wins support, ponders reform

ROMANIA's president-elect Emil Constantinescu won Western backing and pondered the shape of a government to implement promised reforms yesterday after his historic defeat of ex-communists.

Constantinescu, 57 today, had a much bigger margin of victory over incumbent Ion Iliescu than predicted.

He said the outcome amounted to a vindication of the 1989 revolt that brought down dictator Nicolae Ceausescu but did not fulfill its promise of real democratic and market reforms under ex-communists who then held power for seven years.

"I am convinced we will be able to make the necessary effort," he said in a radio speech. "We will succeed if we do away with incompetence and theft and if the austerity program starts with austerity for the people at the top."

Constantinescu's win completed the rout of leftists begun this month when centrists ousted Iliescu's party from government and gave him free rein to launch faster reforms to improve living standards among the lowest in Eastern Europe.

Analysts predicted the new government, drawn mainly from Constantinescu's Democratic Convention, would take shape over the next seven to 10 days.

Constantinescu told radio listeners his priorities were opening up capital markets, lifting restrictions on currency markets and ending foreign investment barriers.

"Romania will almost certainly be better viewed in the outside world now," said commentator Stelian Tanase. "We will probably see a number of governments in the next few years, but that's not necessarily unstable. It's a bit like an ice hockey team switching lines."

With 96 percent of the vote counted, Constantinescu held a 54 percent to 46 percent lead over Iliescu. The outcome confirmed exit polls broadcast minutes after voting closed.

Constantinescu's support was particularly strong among more sophisticated city voters and in areas inhabited by the 1.6 million-strong Hungarian minority. One such county gave him 91 percent - a reaction to the outgoing president's campaign bid to question Hungarians' loyalty to the state.

FBI investigating pilot claim of light streak near TWA crash site

SMITHTOWN, New York (AP) - The FBI said it is investigating a claim by a Pakistan Airlines pilot that he saw a streak of light in the skies during a weekend flight near the crash site of TWA Flight 800.

The source of the light was not immediately clear. A possible explanation is a meteor shower, which the National Weather Service confirmed was in the sky Saturday night when the pilot reported seeing the streak after taking off from New York's Kennedy Airport for Frankfurt, Germany.

The FBI is following up on the report. FBI spokesman Joseph Valiquette said Sunday. "At this point, we don't know what, if anything, was seen."

One of the pilots of the Pakistan Airlines plane said he didn't see the

light, but described to WCBS radio on Sunday what his co-pilot saw.

"A light, coming from the left-hand side to the right-hand side in front of the aircraft," said pilot Wajid Shah. "It was about three to four miles (4.8 to 6.4 kilometers) in front of the aircraft and was above the aircraft."

Shah said they were told by Boston air traffic controllers that there were no military exercises in the area.

A TWA plane flying immediately behind the Pakistani jet Saturday made a similar sighting and asked to turn around. *The New York Post* reported yesterday, citing aviation sources. The TWA plane was rerouted and the air corridor used by the Pakistan Airlines flight was closed, the newspaper said.

Death toll rises to 50 in Russian building explosion

MOSCOW (AP) - Rescuers pulled more bodies from the wreckage of an apartment building yesterday that housed Russian Border Guard officers and their families, bringing the death toll from a weekend explosion to 50.

One or more bombs may have been planted in the basement, officials said, though the exact cause of the explosion has not been established. Police detained a suspect, Russian reports said, but gave no details.

The Interfax news agency said rescue teams have pulled 39 survivors and 50 bodies from the ruins since the blast.

No one was found alive yesterday, but hopes flared after a dog was found alive in the debris, independent NTV television said, and rescuers vowed to keep digging around the clock.

The investigation must be carried out as quickly as possible to find out whether it was a terrorist act or a tragic accident," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said after visiting the site Sunday, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

The explosion destroyed at least 41 apartments in the building at Kaspysk, on the shores of the Caspian Sea in the southern Russian republic of Dagestan.

The dead include 15 children, said

Tatyana Timoshenkova, spokeswoman for Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry. A dozen people remained under the rubble.

Jazz musician dies 'the most beautiful death'

SAN LUIS OBISPO, California (AP) - A 79-year-old jazz musician making her theater debut as a spirit passing into heaven played her last note and died on stage of an apparent heart attack. Decidie Ball performed in the play, then collapsed at the piano while playing a musical introduction for the next act. "It was the most beautiful death I've ever seen," said Karen Hammon, a friend in the audience Friday night.

"It seemed like a perfect way for a musician to be able to leave: doing what they love to do on stage in front of a piano." Ball performed in an all-female local broadcast show in the 1940s and '50s, played on the Kay Starr radio show as a soloist, performed in clubs, wrote songs and traveled the world with jazz groups.

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Converting the faithful

THE religious parties, led by Shas, are to soon introduce a bill that would block the recognition of Reform and Conservative conversions in Israel. If it passes, it will be a Pyrrhic victory for the religious parties, and could seriously harm Israel-Diaspora relations.

sions that are done in the United States or elsewhere in the world. We are going to maintain the status quo scrupulously." The subtext here is that Netanyahu will support a law that affirms the current practice of not recognizing non-Orthodox conversions carried out in Israel, so long as Diaspora conversions are unaffected.

NO, OF COURSE WE HAVEN'T BROUGHT IN PALESTINIAN POLICEMEN TO HEBRON.



Binyamin and Irv

IT was watching Binyamin Netanyahu's performance at a parlor meeting in Jerusalem during the election campaign last spring that made me recall Irv for the first time in many years.

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

steady gaze at the persons filling the Katamon apartment last May and listening to his confident voice I suddenly saw Irv's face again.

The link between the two: heightened vision and an ability to persuade

When he took office in a few weeks, he said in a voice that left no room for doubt, people would walk freely again on the streets of Jerusalem.

appealed for help, via Washington, from Syria's President Assad, who graciously agreed to do what he could to call off the bombers.

Excuse me...

GWYNNE DYER

IF you believe the doctors nothing is wholesome; if you believe the priests nothing is moral; if you believe the soldiers nothing is safe.

And if you believe the director of the John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies, we are heading for a global clash of civilizations far more intractable than the Cold War.

Now Huntington has done it again. His new book, The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order will be welcomed by military-industrial complexes everywhere.

Huntington's basic argument is that "modernization" has different effects in different cultures. It has led to democracy and individualism in Western societies, but in cultures with other traditions it will produce very different results.

This forces Huntington to argue that Iran under the ayatollahs, for example, is somehow more representative of modern Islam than Turkey, a "torn" country that made the terrible mistake of emulating Western models of modernization.

"East Asia" (which seems to include anywhere that there are significant Chinese minorities) impresses him even more. But the East Asia that wins his approval as an authentic "civilization" is that of Deng Xiaoping's China and Lee Kwan Yew's Singapore, authoritarian

There's nothing particularly 'Western' about modernization

states where allegedly "Western" perversions like free speech and democracy are rejected, not that of Thailand and South Korea where they are honored.

HUNTINGTON'S great influence in Western political and military circles springs from the fact that he shares the market's basic prejudices.

While making a great show of political correctness and cultural relativism, at bottom he completely accepts the notion that modernization is synonymous with Westernization.

"The West," he writes, "believes that the non-Western peoples should commit themselves to the Western values of democracy, free markets, limited governments, separation of church and state, human rights, individualism, and the rule of law... but the dominant attitudes toward them in non-Western cultures range from skepticism to intense opposition."

Western values? Excuse me, Mr. Huntington, but just how many of those "Western values" did Henry VIII of England believe in? Or Louis XIV of France?

What Huntington arrogantly misses is that the West was an absolutely typical pre-industrial society until it began to modernize. You can find individuals in the pre-modern history of every civilization who advocated free speech, human rights, and even democracy, but until modernization began they had no chance of winning.

Once modernization does get underway, however, their odds on success go up dramatically — and it makes no difference where they are. Japan, India, and Turkey have no more trouble running free, democratic societies than Italy, Brazil, and the Philippines.

Modernization destroys old hierarchies everywhere, and unleashes huge social changes. Many are upsetting, and some are destructive.

But there's nothing particularly "Western" about them, except that the West was the first region of the world to go through them. Any other society that modernizes is almost certain to go through the same changes.

The only civilizations that will really fit Huntington's model are the ones that stall halfway. So far, no major one has.

The writer is a London-based independent journalist and historian.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CALL FOR RECONCILIATION

Sir, - Hillel Halkin's article of November 8, "Hebron: a missed chance," would make very good sense were it not for the fact that deeply embedded in the souls of two peoples lies a deep sense of pain exacerbated by the massacres of the Jewish residents of Hebron in 1929 and of the worshippers in the mosque in 1994, neither of which can be swept under the carpet by either side, but is bound to remain an open wound until a suitable form of reconciliation or suhba is effected.

ISAAC NEWMAN, Chairman, Rabbinic for Human Rights

Jerusalem.

DIFFERENCE

Sir, - What is the basic difference between the policies of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and his successor Shimon Peres, and the policies of the present Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, without compromising any of the vital interests of the State of Israel, created an atmosphere of conciliation between Israel, the Palestinians and the Arab world, which could have resulted, in the course of time, maybe several years, in a genuine peace between Israel and all or most of the Arab states, to the enormous advantage, politically and economically, of the State of Israel. The policies of Netanyahu so far created an atmosphere of confrontation between Israel and the Arab world with unpredictable negative results for the State of Israel.

Los Angeles.

STICK TO YOUR GUNS

Sir, - I am concerned by the policy of the new government because I am afraid that it cannot prevent a national disaster. And I am astonished by the silence of those who, for the past four years, have warned of an eventual conflagration and demanded a change of direction.

No doubt this government has meant a welcome change in national policy. It takes a tougher position against Israel's enemies and it embraces the Zionist values so important for a Jewish State. Essentially, however, it seems that Netanyahu only follows the legacy of his predecessors. He accepts being a captive of Oslo, contemplates surrendering Israeli soil, goes on legitimizing a war criminal as a statesman, responds to strong pressure by participating in a summit meeting, allows the enemy to run its public institutions in Israel's capital, impedes Jews from settling in some parts of the country, and so on.

How is it that a Likud government today implements what only half a decade ago was regarded as an extreme left-wing agenda? The political landscape has changed, and the prime minister has to accept the new reality, we are told. But this explanation is not adequate, unless there are imperative reasons for continuing the policy of the previous government.

The signed agreements are no such reason. As Professor Louis René Beres has demonstrated, Oslo I and II are invalid in terms of international law. And it takes no expert

to realize that a treaty that is broken by one party is not binding on the other. The acts of the PA constitute mockery of everything agreed upon.

It is hard to see that international opinion should be such an imperative reason. Israel should have learned long ago that their appetite is insatiable. The price for following a hawkish policy is scarcely higher than for a dovish one rather it prevents inflation of demands. The economic factor has never had the dimensions that makes Israel an American marionette.

A PLO army of 50,000 soldiers indeed makes you think twice before facing a controversy. But this new threat by no means justifies further concessions, that only increase the threat. On the contrary, the recent violence demonstrates how fatal concessions are.

There are no imperative reasons for following in the steps of the previous government. Let alone for further concessions. A statesman's task is not to consider reality, but to change it. A failure to rectify the mistakes of Netanyahu's predecessors will not pay in the long run. History shows that it is men of strong will, courage and readiness to sacrifice who turn out to be the winners. Just remember Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill or Nelson Mandela - not to mention Yasser Arafat.

JOAKIM FÖRARS

Åbo, Finland.

CHAINING PATIENTS TO BED

Sir, - You carried a story about "chaining patients to bed" in your October 20 issue and a reader's reaction in letters of October 31, so I thought that it was about time that the public read Hadassah's opinion.

The Hadassah Medical Organization is firmly against the chaining/handcuffing of any person during hospitalization in its institutions. Hadassah has clear instructions on this matter. The difficulties in enforcing our stand depend upon IDF and police authorities who bring a chained prisoner, detainee or terrorist to the hospital and claim

that his chaining is vital for the safety of the public. The dispute that arises out of these opposite stands is a problem in itself. We have brought up the matter again and again before the authorities. It would be a good idea if the Israel Medical Association together with the Ministry of Health, the IDF and police were to give clear instructions on this subject.

YOSSI SHOVAL, Director, External Relations Division, Hadassah Medical Organization Jerusalem

WATCHING Netanyahu cast his

A virus called defeatism

ALMOST simultaneously, the Israeli public learned (1) that Yitzhak Rabin had given President Clinton an undertaking to cede the Golan and 20 percent of the Kinneret to Syria in return for some security arrangements and normalization, and (2) that there has been a sharp decline in the motivation of young Israelis to serve in the IDF and enlist for combat units.

The two things are intimately linked. When timid politicians squander the fruits of victory; when the media exalt peace treaties to the point that words on paper and foreign guarantees (likely to prove worthless because of Western economic and strategic interests in the Arab states) become more important than the land we must defend; when both recent Labor prime ministers openly declared that we couldn't afford another war because there would be too many casualties in Tel Aviv, is it a wonder that our young people lack the motivation to do army service?

And if the Labor premiers' declaration reflects the considered opinion of our General Staff can one expect that staff to inculcate motivation in others?

The reason IDF motivation has dropped among secular school pupils in the big cities is that very many of them are affected by four years of untrammelled and cumulative peace propaganda. And their reasoning is quite logical.

If the PLO and Syria are no longer enemies, if their case is just, why fight them? Why not simply give them what they want?

Among religious nationalists, luckily a growing part of the population, motivation to serve is still in evidence. Yet instead of the General Staff being manned with such men, key command positions have been reserved for left-wing generals, most of whom are basi-

YOHANAN RAMATI

cally defeatist. How to eradicate this defeatism, disguised as peace talk, with which Labor leaders, Meretz and the media have systematically fed the minds of our youth, our journalists and many high-ranking army officers, is a critical and burning question. For if the phenomenon persists the IDF will become useless and Israel's survival doubtful.

The infection runs deep. If it persists the IDF will become useless and Israel's survival doubtful

OSLO has already demoralized us to the point where OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai could openly express admiration for Yasser Arafat in an interview just days after Arafat ordered the Palestinian police to kill soldiers under Yanai's command - and not be cashiered. He even declared: "I do not consult with the political echelon."

In this atmosphere of "anything goes" Gen. Oren Shabor, conducting negotiations with the PLO on the government's behalf, reported on them to and probably consulted with opposition leaders.

He was suspended, but instead of getting an immediate dishonorable discharge is awaiting the results of an inquiry.

What Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak ought to be doing is examining the motivation of the generals around him and their loyalty to the government of Israel

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

The writer heads the Jerusalem Institute for Western Defense.

Key Representative Rates table with columns for currency, rate, and change.

Consumers ask US to look again at aspartame

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Two US consumer groups called yesterday for a new Food and Drug Administration review of the safety of aspartame...

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Smoking pill research to continue

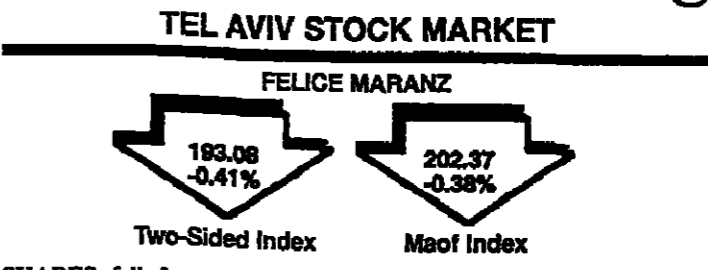
MINNETONKA, Minn. (Reuters) - Researchers developing a new pill to help smokers kick the nicotine habit have received US government approval to continue their work...

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TEL AVIV STOCKS table with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change. Includes sections for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, and Parallel List.

Shares decline as investors await central bank meeting



SHARES fell for a second day yesterday ahead of next week's meeting of the Bank of Israel to discuss whether to lower interest rates.

Investors are waiting for Monday's interest rate decision, said Shahar Gazit, a trader at Tel Aviv investment firm Batucha Securities & Investments Ltd.

And while the central bank is expected to cut rates by as much as 30 basis points, that would not be sufficient to make equity investments attractive enough, traders said.

The Maof index of 25 issues fell 0.38% to 202.37 and the Mishkan index of 100 issues fell 0.41% to 193.08.

Of 976 shares trading across the exchange, nearly eight shares fell for every five that rose. Some NIS 39.7 million of shares changed hands, NIS 3.7m. below Sunday's level.

Losses were led by Tadiran Ltd., which said its third-quarter net income rose 8.5%. That was only a year ago that analysts had expected.

Telekom sale fails to spark rally

LONDON (Reuters) - Investors enthusiastically welcomed Europe's biggest share flotation yesterday, competing furiously to pay a substantial premium to secure Deutsche Telekom shares.

The London stock market ended a lackluster session only marginally higher as skepticism about Wall Street's ability to sustain its record-breaking run and worries about next week's budget nibbled at investor confidence.

Traders said bid speculation swirling around British Gas and favorable government borrowing figures should have set the stage for healthy gains, but the FTSE 100 index managed to eke out only a 3.9 point gain to close at 3,962.1.

Nearly 38 million Telekom shares had changed hands by the time the German market ended floor trade. The stock began trading at a 16.5 percent premium and then surged to close just off its 34.10 mark high at 33.90.

It slipped to around 32.55 marks in later screen-based trade in Germany, but remained well above the 28.50 marks the issue was priced at on Sunday.

Despite the enthusiasm, however, Germany's 30-share DAX index ended 31 points, or 1.14% down, at 2,763.84. In later computerized trade, the IBIS DAX was at 2,776.27.

The London stock market ended a lackluster session only marginally higher as skepticism about Wall Street's ability to sustain its record-breaking run and worries about next week's budget nibbled at investor confidence.

Kellogg buying bagel brand for \$455m.

DETROIT (Reuters) - Kellogg Company, in a move to broaden its breakfast food business and help offset sluggish cereal sales, said yesterday it will acquire the Lender's Bagels business from Kraft Foods Inc. for \$455 million.

Lender's, based in White Plains, New York, is the nation's largest maker of fresh and frozen bagels sold in grocery stores, with annual sales of about \$275m. Kraft is owned by Philip Morris Co. Inc., the New York-based food and tobacco giant.

"Lender's Bagels is a perfect fit for Kellogg Company's fast-growing convenience foods business," Kellogg Chairman Arnold Langbo said.

"With our heritage based in nutrition and our technical competence in grain-based food products, adding the nation's number one brand in bagels... offers substantial new opportunities to grow our business," he said in a statement.

Analysts said the deal would extend Kellogg's reach into America's breakfast pantry by moving it into the fast-growing bagel business, with sales estimated at about \$2.8 billion a year.

French truckers protest for better work conditions

PARIS (Reuters) - Truckers caused traffic chaos across France on Monday by blocking roads in protests demanding more money and shorter working hours.

TURMOIL

(Continued from Page 1) Arafat on delaying the deal, saying they were not worthy of a response.

"I was asked whether I had information that Peres is thwarting the agreement with Arafat and I can say unequivocally that I have no information like that. I bothered to tell him so," Netanyahu said.

"I don't know if the prime minister did it personally, but I have no doubt it came from his bureau and from those close to him," she said.

She accused whoever spread the report of "letting Peres's blood. He is portrayed here as a collaborator, as one who gives the other side information and sabotages the negotiations, which is tantamount to treason."

Netanyahu said he had no evidence that Peres had asked Arafat to delay the signing of an agreement on Hebron and that he would not investigate who is responsible for the newspaper story containing the allegation.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK logo and name.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES table with columns for currency, mark, sterling, yen, SF, and FF.

Kahalani has list of 33 CIS mafia suspects

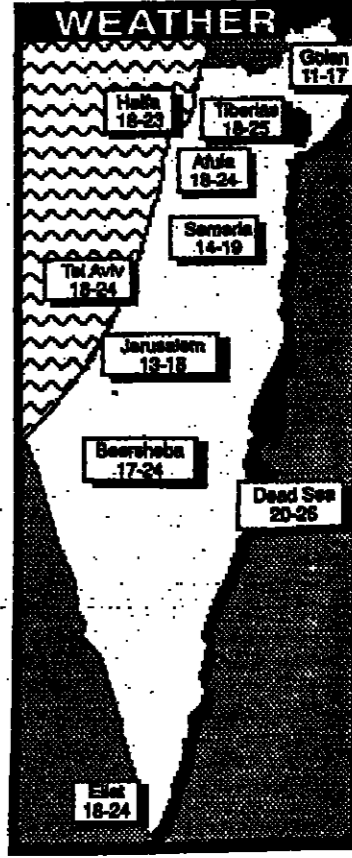
BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

THE police have provided the Interior Ministry with a list of 33 people believed to be part of an organized crime group from the CIS operating in Israel. Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told the Knesset's Aliya Committee yesterday. "Only one [of the suspected mafia members] is Jewish and entered Israel legally. The others obtained Israeli documents illegally through fictitious marriages or bought false documents... To my regret, this group has managed to cast aspersions on an entire aliya," Kahalani said. Kahalani said that the police unit investigating organized crime has 20 members and is in touch with similar units in the CIS. Kahalani confirmed that the police have a document showing that a meeting had been organized for the prime minister with Gregory Luchansky, who reputedly has connections with organized crime. Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky also met with this person, Kahalani said. People who wish to make aliya are thoroughly checked in their home countries. Ya'acov Kedmi, head of the Liaison Bureau in the

Prime Minister's Office, told the committee. "However, most of the people on the list that Kahalani mentioned received Israeli IDs through fictitious marriages in Israel. Others acquired false documents. They are very wealthy and can afford to buy real documents and therefore it is hard to track them down," Kedmi said. "There are criminals that manage to infiltrate in every aliya but the case with which criminals from Russia get visas to come here, real or false, is unacceptable," committee chairperson Naomi Blumenthal commented. MK Ofer Pines (Labor) called for an investigation into whether rumors were true that the Likud and Yisrael Ba'aliya parties were funded by the mafia. He said he had received threats on his life since mentioning this. MK Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) blamed the police for stigmatization. He said that "it is simply not feasible that every investor or rich immigrant from Russia should be considered part of the mafia." Stern demanded that the police "stop leaking reports that have a critical impact on the aliya from the CIS."



Cindy Friedman of Miami, who works at Hillel House on the Hebrew University campus on Jerusalem's Mt. Scopus, gets a copy of 'The Jerusalem Post' from the new automatic vending machine at the Goldsmith Building of the School for Overseas Students yesterday. Machines are also operating in the cafeteria at Yad Vashem and at the United Tours office/pick-up point next to the King David Hotel. Two additional machines are to begin operating tomorrow in Tel Aviv, at the American Embassy and the Diaspora Museum. (Isaac Harel)



AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Forecast
Amsterdam	04	05	rain
Berlin	02	08	cloudy
Buenos Aires	14	28	clear
Chicago	10	27	cloudy
Frankfurt	02	07	rain
Hong Kong	19	24	rain
London	04	08	cloudy
Los Angeles	10	18	clear
Madrid	08	14	cloudy
Moscow	02	08	rain
New York	07	13	cloudy
Paris	06	10	rain
Rome	12	18	rain
Stockholm	01	07	rain
Tokyo	08	17	clear
Toronto	07	14	cloudy
Vancouver	10	14	rain
Zurich	02	06	rain

Court rules Ruti Nahmani can implant eggs in surrogate

RUTI Nahmani is free to go ahead and have her fertilized eggs implanted in a surrogate mother, after the Haifa District Court ruled yesterday that the Surrogacy Law does not apply to her case, and her husband Danny's permission is no longer required for their implantation. Danny Nahmani's lawyer, Diana Har-Even, said she would appeal the decision to the Supreme Court, and would seek a restraining order to prevent Ruti Nahmani from implanting the eggs until the case is heard. Danny Nahmani, who is separated from Ruti, had appealed to the Haifa District Court after the Supreme Court had ruled Ruti could use the eggs. He asked the district court to forbid her from having the eggs implanted unless she did so under the terms of the

Surrogacy Law, which requires the agreement of both parents for such a move. He argued that the Supreme Court's ruling did not obviate her from acting in accordance with the law. However, Ruti's lawyer, Ziv Gruber, argued that the Supreme Court had allowed Ruti to implant the eggs in a surrogate mother without any interference by her husband, and that the Surrogacy Law did not apply to her case at all. Judge Hanoch Ariel ruled that the Surrogacy Law should not be applied to this case, since making Ruti Nahmani adhere to the law now would effectively cancel the High Court's ruling. Ariel noted that the Nahmanis had agreed to implant the fertilized eggs in a surrogate mother abroad before the Surrogacy Law was passed.

"Danny's demand to obey the requirements of the Surrogacy Law, among them his giving his written consent to the surrogacy and other acts for which his approval would be required, cannot be applied in this case. This is because the eggs have already been fertilized, which is the second stage after the agreement with the surrogate mother, according to the Surrogacy Law," he said. "Moreover, Danny's agreement to this was clearly given even earlier, and the Supreme Court ruled in its additional hearing that he cannot backtrack on it, and it is binding regarding the surrogacy." "We hope Ruti will become a mother despite every obstacle and the fact that Danny is indeed trying to place every possible obstacle in her path," Gruber said after the ruling. (Itim)

TA judge refers sperm case to A-G

THE attorney-general has been asked to issue a response to a woman's request that a court rule her dead husband's sperm is her property, which she can use for in vitro fertilization of her eggs. The hearing on the woman's case was held yesterday before Tel Aviv District Court Judge Gabriel Klingler.

The woman's husband was sick with cancer until his death in October, and the disease prevented the couple from having children. Several months before his death, he was found to have usable sperm which would allow his wife to become pregnant. A sperm sample was taken from the man and immediately frozen. Nine days after he provided the sperm, his condition suddenly worsened, and he died four months later. The woman claims that before he died, her husband asked to bring a child into the world, but his sudden death prevented them from going ahead with the necessary treatment. After he died, she asked the company with which his sperm was stored for it. The company agreed, but asked to first receive the court's approval. (Itim)

Egyptian court remands Azzam for 45 days

BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

AN Egyptian military court yesterday remanded Azzam Azzam, the Israeli citizen being held on suspicion of espionage, for a further 45 days. No indictment has yet been filed.

In an interview yesterday with Channel 2's Aharon Barnea, conducted in the presence of Egypt's chief security prosecutor, Azzam said he was being treated well and had not been physically abused. According to Azzam, Imad Isma'il, an Egyptian who was also arrested in connection with the case, was one of a group of 14 textile executives who had come to study production methods at the Taffron firm, where Azzam works.

Azzam said he had taken Isma'il to visit a small production plant in the Druse village of Ein el-Asad in the Galleh, which makes undershirts for an American firm. Isma'il had asked for some samples, and the factory foreman put a few undershirts in a bag and told him to give them to Isma'il. He brought them to Isma'il, who was waiting in the car. The Egyptians claim that there was invisible ink found in the bag. The Egyptian general prosecutor said Isma'il had admitted that the foreman was the one who had drafted him to work for the Mossad. Azzam, in the interview, denied any involvement with espionage. Azzam's Egyptian lawyer had proposed to the court that the Israeli Embassy pay a fine to obtain his release, but the idea was rejected, Israel Radio reported.

Burial societies to face Ben-Porat's scrutiny

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset State Control Committee decided unanimously yesterday that burial societies should be subject to the scrutiny of the state comptroller.

The decision must now be approved by the plenum, but is unlikely to encounter any problems there. The suggestion to subject burial societies to the comptroller's scrutiny came from State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat herself, but MKs agreed that it was a good idea. Committee chairman Ran-Cohen (Meretz) noted that burial societies provide an important service to all residents at an especially difficult time in their lives. They are also funded by the state, via the National Insurance Institute, to the tune of more than NIS 100 million a year. The combination of these two facts makes it appropriate to subject the country's 500 burial societies to the comptroller's scrutiny, he said. Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) added that order needs to be imposed on the entire issue of burials, including the allocation of land for cemeteries. Ben-Porat's supervision could assist this task, he said.

The committee's decision comes against the background of scandals involving inflated salaries and pensions in the burial societies.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beware buying wedding rings on credit
A bridegroom from a moshav in the North who bought a wedding ring via his credit card almost had to redo his wedding ceremony, after the credit card company failed to debit his account on time, meaning the ring still technically belonged to the shop he bought it from when the wedding took place.

The matter was presented to former Chief Sephardi Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, who ruled the wedding was valid because the delay was the company's, and not his. However, the rabbi warned bridegrooms not to buy wedding rings via credit cards, unless it is clear they will be paid for before the wedding takes place. "You cannot legally wed a woman with a ring that does not belong to the bridegroom," he said. (Itim)

Search renewed for missing soldier
Central Police District commander Supt. Shlomo Aharonishki yesterday decided to renew the search for missing soldier Sharon Edri of Moshav Zanoah, near Beit Shemesh.

The search is to last two days and will include some 400 policemen, volunteers, soldiers and Civil Guard personnel. The search is focusing on the area along the road from Modi'in to Maccabim, from the Gimzo Junction via Mitzpe Modi'in, Mevo Modi'in, the Shilat Junction and the surrounding vicinity. The police set up a temporary command center in the Ben-Shemen Youth Village. Edri was last seen in the area of the Tzrifin military base. (Itim)

MDA: Drivers should pass first-aid course
Passing a first-aid and resuscitation course should be a condition for receiving a driver's license. Magen David Adom training department head Natan Kudinsky said yesterday. Kudinsky asked the Transportation Ministry's licensing bureau to implement this recommendation. Every year, 150,000 people receive driving licenses, thus such a condition would be an excellent way to increase first-aid skills in the population, he said. MDA ambulances evacuate 30,000 people injured in road accidents. The cost of training drivers would be NIS 10.5 million, Kudinsky estimated, and could be paid for by the applicants. (Judy Siegel)

Israeli passengers safe after emergency landing in Djibouti

AN Air India flight that took off Sunday night from Ben-Gurion Airport en route to Bombay was forced to make an emergency landing yesterday in Djibouti, a small east African country that is a member of the Arab League and does not have diplomatic relations with Israel. There were some 40 Israelis among the flights 150 passengers. All were reported safe. The passengers were taken after the landing to a local Sheraton hotel, and soon afterward reports

about the incident were received by the Foreign Ministry's situation room. Israeli passengers were later reached directly at the hotel. One Israeli woman told Israel Radio that the Israelis felt "tense" but were not being treated differently than the other passengers. She said the plane had been forced to land because of a fuel leak. Air India's representative here said a plane would be flown today to Djibouti to pick up the passengers and bring them to Bombay. (Itim)

Hebrew U. gets smart

JUDY SIEGEL

HEBREW University students may forget the formulas for cosines and tangents and the dates of various historical wars, but from now on, they mustn't forget their smart cards in their dorm rooms. These pieces of plastic - the first of their kind on an Israeli campus - will serve as portable, individual data files with grades, academic status, tuition payments and personal data stored inside. Until now, a considerably more primitive smart card system instituted experimentally by Bezeq on the Bar-Ilan University campus has served as an electronic wallet for petty-cash purchases and for making phone calls. But the HU card, whose functions are to be introduced gradually, will offer more sophisticated options. Called a Unicard and displaying the bearer's photo, name and identity number, it contains a computer chip with a microprocessor, memory and sophisticated means of data storage and encryption. The technology is a joint project of the university, Caspit Ltd. and Be'erit Printers. It is already being used to borrow books from the libraries and identify students at exams. The card will also be an ID card, give access to computerized university services and databases and serve as a money card for purchasing goods and services at campus stores.

President Weizman to visit India

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman and his wife, Reuma, are to pay a state visit to India at the end of December, it was announced in Jerusalem yesterday. This will be the first such visit to India by an Israeli head of state. Weizman will meet with his host, Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma, and will lay a wreath on the grave of Mahatma Gandhi. In Bombay, the president will meet with the local Jewish community. He also will pay a nostalgic visit to the base at Yalanka where he served during World War II as a pilot in the Royal Air Force. (Batsheva Tsur)

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